

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-10 FEAЕ-00 OMB-01 SAM-01

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R 201204Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0569

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 16043

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NATO

SUBJECT: NATO SUMMITS: GOF OPPOSITION

SUMMARY: GOF IS OPPOSED TO PERIODIC NATO SUMMITS TO DISCUSS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC MATTERS IN ADDITION TO DEFENSE ISSUES. INSTEAD OF CRYING ABOUT AMERICAN DOMINATION, HOWEVER, GOF APPEAL TO EC-9 PARTNERS IS CENTERED
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ON ARGUMENT THAT NATO SUMMITS WILL OVERSHADOW ALREADY

INSTITUTIONALIZED EC-9 HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETINGS AS EUROPEAN COUNCIL, THEREBY UNDERMINING MOMENTUM TOWARD EUROPEAN UNITY. END SUMMARY.

1. IN RECENT INTERVIEW WITH NEW YORK TIMES COLUMNIST JAMES RESTON, FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING SAID HE IS OPPOSED TO THE TRUDEAU PROPOSAL FOR PERIODIC NATO SUMMITS TO DISCUSS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AS WELL AS DEFENSE QUESTIONS. IN THE RESTON ARTICLE, GISCARD IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT NATO IS ESSENTIALLY A DEFENSE ALLIANCE AND THEREFORE NOT COMPETENT TO DISCUSS WIDER ISSUES FOR WHICH OTHER MULTILATERAL FORA WERE DESIGNED. IN ADDITION, GISCARD SAID NATO IS TOO LARGE A FORUM IN WHICH TO EXPECT SUMMIT MEETINGS TO BE FRUITFUL.

2. IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY, PRESIDENCY AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE SINCE NATO SUMMIT LAST MONTH, ANOTHER MAJOR THEME OF OPPOSITION HAS EMERGED. EC-9 HAS DEVELOPED IMPORTANT NEW INSTITUTION DESIGNED TO ENHANCE EUROPEAN UNITY IN PAST YEAR. THIS IS THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL CONSISTING OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING THREE TIMES A YEAR IN VERY RESTRICTED SESSIONS. IT IS HIGH LEVEL GOF FEELING THAT IF THE NATO SUMMIT BECOMES INSTITUTIONALIZED ON AN ANNUAL OR SEMI-ANNUAL BASIS, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL WILL LOSE ALL IMPORTANCE AS A FORUM FOR THE DISCUSSION OF EUROPEAN PROBLEMS. HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WILL PREFER TO SAVE THEIR MAJOR INTERVENTIONS FOR THE NATO SUMMIT, AND EUROPEAN UNITY WILL LOSE OUT BY DEFAULT.

3. THE FACT THAT THE TRUDEAU PROPOSAL WAS MADE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION AND APPROVAL BY THE USG IS ACCEPTED HERE. HENCE, FOR THE MOMENT, THE OLD ARGUMENT ABOUT THE UNITED STATES SEEKING TO DOMINATE EUROPE IS NOT BEING REVIVED. BY CONTRAST, GOF OFFICIALS WE HAVE SEEN RECENTLY ARE SAYING THAT U.S. ACTIONS OVER THE PAST YEAR ARE UNDERMINING EUROPEAN UNITY BY INADVERTENCE. IN ADDITION TO OUR ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FOR PERIODIC NATO SUMMITS, THEY CITE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY AND RELENTLESS U.S. DOMINATION OF SOPHISTI-

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CATED INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY (READ F-104 REPLACEMENT CONTRACT) AS ACTIONS WHICH ARE BEING PURSUED FOR OTHER REASONS, BUT WHICH NEVERTHELESS HAVE THE EFFECT OF INHIBITING MOVEMENT TOWARD EUROPEAN UNITY.

4. COMMENT: GISCARD IS NOT LIKELY TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT NATO SUMMITS UNDERMINING EUROPEAN UNITY. HE HAS TOO OFTEN CASTIGATED EUROPEANS FOR LOOKING OUTSIDE

EUROPE FOR ALIBIS. ACCORDING TO GISCARD, EUROPE HAS ONLY ITSELF TO BLAME IF THE MOMENTUM TOWARD UNITY IS LOST. BUT WE CAN BE SURE THAT THE GOF WILL BE USING THE LINE DESCRIBED ABOVE IN QUIET EFFORTS TO PERSUADE THEIR EC-9 PARTNERS TO REFRAIN FROM INSTITUTIONALIZING THE NATO SUMMIT.

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